



# Veterans Services

# Current Statistics

- As of August 2022, TDOC had 1126 self-reported military affiliated inmates
- Age Range 21-87
- We have 91 veterans scheduled to release in the next calendar year

# History

- **2008**-Began Identifying Veterans
- **2015**-Two-thirds of incarcerated veterans are rearrested within 3 years of release and three-quarters were rearrested within 5 years. (Berger, T. and Blue-Howells, J. "Veterans Reentry: Policies and Practices." US Department of Veterans Affairs. 2015)
- **2019**- Veterans Programming Unit

# A Unit for Veterans

## Veterans Program Unit



# The Vision

- Establish a Veterans Programming Unit designed specifically to meet the unique needs of offenders and address veteran specific issues.
- Improve outcomes for incarcerated military veterans through the delivery of programs, treatment and education specifically designed for the incarcerated veteran by building on the discipline and structure learned from military service.

# Layout

## Environment

- Patriotic Murals
- Community Structure
- Community Projects

## Work

- Job Preparedness
- Re-Entry employment assistance through Veteran's Affairs

## School/Vocational

- Adult Basic Education
- Vocational Options
- Higher Education Options

# Programming Specific

- **Seeking Safety**
  - Evidenced Based Curriculum
  - Focuses on coping skills to obtain safety from trauma and/or substance abuse
  - Twenty-Five Modules
    - 7 Interpersonal Topics
    - 7 Behavioral Topics
    - 7 Cognitive Topics
    - 4 Combination Topics

# Additional Events

- Television Events
- Socials
- Arts and Crafts
- Visitors
- Victim Impact
- Cognitive Behavioral Intervention Program

# Veterans Program Units (VPU)

- Bledsoe County Correctional Complex (54 Beds)
- Turney Center Industrial Complex (128 Beds)
- Northwest Correctional Complex (47 Beds)
- West Tennessee State Prison (24 Beds)
- 91% capacity in August 2022.

# Veteran Pride



# New Partnerships

## January 2022 Tennessee Veterans Services

- Veteran Services Coordinators
- Benefit Identification/Navigation for Staff and Offenders

## **Veterans Club at RMSI**

- In July 2022, raised \$2,600 for a military family in need

## **Honoring Veteran Staff**

- Recognitions and special events

# Questions?

